

U.S.S.N. 09/699,003

Filed: October 26, 2000

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Amendment

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for inducing an immune response against transformed, infected or diseased tissue in a patient comprising

selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules from blood, plasma, or one or more components of the blood of the patient until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in size or is inflamed or other positive indication is observed.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed from one blood volume.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed in multiple treatments.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the agent is a cytokine and the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, G-CSF, M-CSF and SCF.

Claim 7 cancelled.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the soluble cytokine receptor molecules are selected from the group consisting of soluble tissue necrosis factor

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receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1"), soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), soluble interleukin-2 receptor ("sIL-2R"), soluble interleukin-1 receptor ("sIL-1R"), soluble interleukin-6 receptor ("sIL-6R"), and soluble interferon-gamma receptor ("sIFN-gammaR").

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to the cytokine or to an antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

Claim 11 cancelled.

12. (previously presented) A system for inducing an immune response against transformed, infected or diseased tissue comprising
a device for selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules, having inlet and outlet means for connection to a pump and tubing to recirculate the blood or blood component of a patient through the device.

Claims 13-15 cancelled.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the device is an ~~absorbent column~~ absorbent column selectively removing specific cytokine or cellular inhibitors from the blood.

17. (original) The system of claim 16 wherein the cytokine or cellular inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1"),

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soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), soluble interleukin-2 receptor ("sIL-2R"), soluble interleukin-1 receptor ("sIL-1R"), soluble interleukin-6 receptor ("sIL-6R"), and soluble interferon-gamma receptor ("sIFN-gammaR").

18. (original) The system of claim 17 comprising cytokines or antibody or antibody fragments immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the blood component is plasma.